

April 2008

Dear Friend,

Roy and I have just recently returned from Belize and had an incredible time. It is great to see how the power of hope is shaping the lives of so many! The highlight of the trip was having lunch with all of the scholarship students. I am amazed to see how quickly they are growing and maturing!

On our flight home it struck me how many wonderful people we know in Belize. I want to share some of their stories with you so you can begin to understand how your support provides hope through faith and learning.

Antonio Bol has worked at Jaguar Creek for eleven years and is now Facilities Director. His passion for learning is something rare. This is a man with a fulltime leadership role, a growing family, a commitment to his church, and has served his community by serving on the Village Council and also leading sports programs. On top of all of this, through financial help from Jaguar Creek, Tono is taking classes five nights a week, from 5 PM to 9 PM, so he can finish his high school diploma! Now this is a busy man! And a person who appreciates how faith and learning provide hope for a better future.

Job Lopez has worked at Jaguar Creek for six months. Job has a vivacious, outgoing personality with a constant smile on his face. At just 19-years of age he has been elected to serve on the Village Council. When we introduced the PathLight scholarship program to his village, Job was an early advocate of the plan and couldn't wait to tell his neighbors about how a scholarship changed his life. Job is leaving Jaguar Creek soon and we will be so sorry to see him go. But he's leaving for a great reason: he received a scholarship to attend college in Texas. Again, his focus on faith and learning has given him great hope for the future.

Sarah Pop is the youngest of nine children. She lives in a home with mud floors, rickety wood walls and a tin roof. Three generations live in the same small home. At 23, Sarah is enrolled at Belize University and studying to be a nurse. What strikes me about Sarah's situation is how her family is working hard to make sure Sarah gets through college. Sarah stands out not only because she is the youngest and (in my opinion) the prettiest in her family, but because she has a manner and confidence that comes from her love for learning. And her family has caught the hope of faith and learning because they see the tangible difference it is making in their little sister.

Prenda is one of our scholarship students. A first-year student at Belmopan Baptist High School, Prenda is one of the sharpest students in her class. Privately, the English teacher at her high school are telling us that she may likely be the top student in her graduating class. Prenda has great parents who do their best, but they are a poor family who live in a rural village with an overcrowded, underfunded, and often-ignored primary school. Prenda has managed to rise above that and succeed despite the challenges. Her commitment to learning and her bright mind will go far because, again, she has caught the hope that comes from faith and learning.

These are four different people at different places in their life, but they have striking similarities. The common denominator is their faith in Christ and their commitment to education. They are hungry to see and learn whatever they can. They have realized that an education will provide options for their lives and break the cycle of poverty that could easily entrap them. Antonio, Job, Sarah and Prenda are not just smart and motivated; they are excellent learners, self confident, well rounded, and committed to a relationship with Christ.

My recent trip to Belize has shown me, once again, how your donations make a difference for youth like Prenda. In the past, other donations made a difference for people like Sara and Job and Antonio. They have options now, because they received an education that is unavailable to so many around the world.

This month we are asking you to consider a gift. There are so many children who need your support in order to obtain an education. Please help us so these young boys and girls can grow into fully devoted followers of Christ, fully devoted learners, and future leaders in their community.

Warmest regards,
D'Aun Goble

PS I hope you can help us continue and expand the work with students like Prenda. Thank you!